

Letters

EDITOR THE PRESS

is heartening, as well as a new experience, to see a newspaper honestly express itself on the basic problems of a community. This, after all, is the main role of a newspaper — the rallying of public opinion toward the solution of the problems which beset us from day to day. May I congratulate your splendid paper!

That was a fine article urging the realistic appraisal of our children in the Torrance classrooms. This article dwells on a subject that gives every parent in Torrance much about which to be concerned.

Above all, in these times of uncertainty, we should return to fundamentals and abandon all the fancy theories and fol-de-rol which have taken us away from

basic principles governing education.

In the beginning, the purpose of education was to make children studious enough to learn what they must learn in order to be decent, upright, useful citizens of a community.

There is all too much evidence that so-called "Progressive Education" and the pet theories of the psychiatrists have failed to produce STUDENTS.

The truth is that our failure to make our children more studious is the fundamental cause of so much juvenile delinquency.

We must teach children that KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, that READING MAKETH A FULL MAN, and we must teach them to devote their spare time to worth-while activities. In these aspects, our school administrators and teachers have failed to produce results.

There has been too much emphasis on the development of docility and conformity and so-called "equality," which seems to be producing a nation of nincompoops.

One must admit that the problem of educators has been greatly aggravated by the fact that so many homes do not provide children with the companionship and guidance they require. Too many parents are indifferent, or both parents work, thus leaving the children to shift for themselves.

One must also acknowledge that TV has had a far more deleterious influence on our na-

Gov. Brown today issued a directive to all department heads calling for "full and frank information to the public and genuine and complete freedom of access for the press."

He took note of recent concern that administration efforts to improve methods of handling public information might lead to censorship.

"Nothing could be further from my mind or intentions, and I think my 16-year record in public office bears that out," Brown said. "But the concern has been expressed by reporters and editors in whose objectivity and judgment I have great faith. So I felt I ought to set the record straight, both for my own department heads and for the public."

In the directive, he said he wants every question resolved "in favor of the fullest public knowledge and discussion."

Part of the text:

1. Any factual questions asked of a department or agency by a reporter should be answered immediately and directly. That applies not only to heads of departments, but to subordinates as well. There need be no prior communication with me or my staff.

2. Each department is free to issue releases on any matter concerning that agency on the authority of its own director. Departmental releases need not be channeled through the Governor's office. This does not change my long-standing position that directors must discuss major policy matters with me before a final decision is made. My staff is, of course, available for assistance and coordination on matters affecting more than one department.

3. I do not want censorship of any kind. I am informed that the principal concern of most representatives of newspapers, radio and television is that they fear self-censorship might be caused by uncertainty or timidity about the ultimate reactions of higher officials. Such censorship is just as dangerous to democracy as any censorship actually exercised by top officials, and the public's right to know is thus frequently infringed by indirection. I don't

want this to happen in this administration.

4. All media are entitled to equal access. Sometimes the special requirements of various media may require special handling, but the effort should always be made to maintain essential equality.

5. The only possible exceptions to be made to full disclosure are in personnel matters. The rep-

utations and careers of individuals should be protected against unproved allegations. Even in this area, however, exceptions should be taken only in cases where they are fully supported by law and by a need to protect the rights of an individual.

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tion's children than many people will care to admit. But when we measure the value of libraries against the evils of hours of improper TV programs for children, we realize how much more difficult it is for a child to prepare properly for the future.

The only element that is truly progressive in education today is exactly what was progressive when we were kids, and that is "passing grades or better." A child must learn to be studious, and this requires proper adult guidance, whether it be teacher or parent.

A good student today is a good man or woman tomorrow. Upon this simple fact the whole future of our nation will depend in the dangerous years ahead, when these children of today must face the bitter competition that is inevitable both at home and abroad.

Your approach to this problem reflects the sincere desire of thinking journalists to improve the community, by calling attention of the people to those matters which require public opinion to correct. Thank God for those newspapers which live up to their responsibility!

Sam Freedman
Torrance

EDITOR THE PRESS

Why did you single out some obscure town to assail for early Christmas decorations when they're already plaguing us here? Miss E. J. Torrance

Sorry. The other town beat us to it. Editorials often are written several days in advance. Torrance caught up in the meantime. Maybe they'll make up for it by holding off on Easter till late January. — Ed.



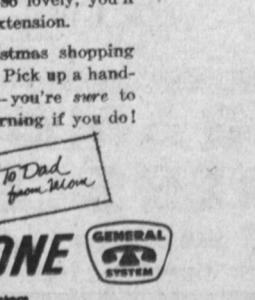
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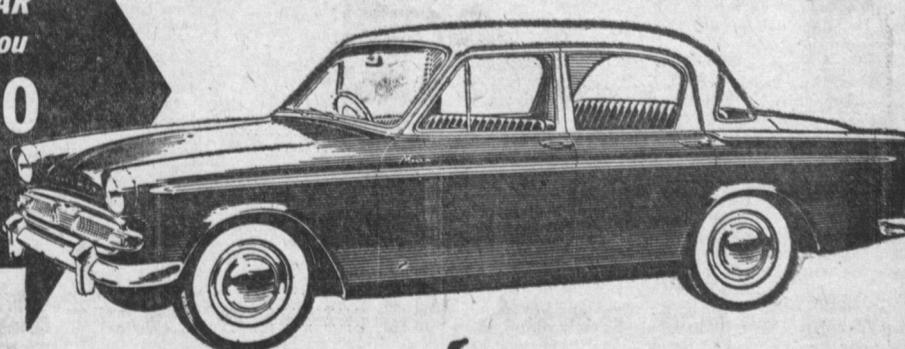
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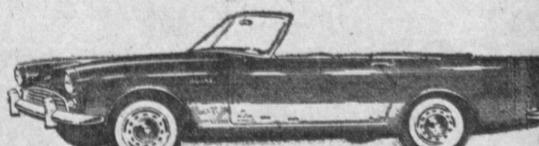
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